

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4629

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERN 3198

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET REQUEST TO INTERVIEW AMBASSADOR

1. I HAVE BEEN ASKED BY SOVIET TV DOCUMENTARY FILM CREW FROM CENTRAL STUDIO OF DOCUMENTARY FILMS, LIKHOV PER., 6, MOSCOW TO GIVE BRIEF INTERVIEW AS PART OF HOUR-LONG DOCUMENTARY FILM BEING MADE ON QTE DETENTE UNQTE. SOVIETS (WHO TALKED WITH EMBASSY FIRST SECRETARY) SAID THEY WANTED TO ASK ME ONLY ONE QUESTION, I.E. MY VIEW ON PROSPECTS FOR DETENTE.

2. SOVIETS SAID THEY ARE FILMING INTERVIEWS IN OTHER EUROPEAN CITIES. THEY SAID THAT THEY WERE ABLE TO FILM AND RECORD A FEW "GOOD WORDS" GIVEN BY AMBASSADOR WARNKE IN GENEVA AT OPENING OF TEST BAN TALKS AND PLAN TO INTERVIEW UK AMBASSADOR CRADOCK IN GENEVA. UK EMBASSY HAS INFORMED ME THAT SOVIETS HAVE ALSO REQUESTED INTERVIEW WITH AMBASSADOR ROTHNIE IN BERN, AND HE WILL ASK FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE FOR GUIDANCE.

3. FILM TEAM CONSISTS OF THREE PERSONS. LEADER IS
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YEKATERINA VERMISHEVA WHOSE BUSINESS CARD GIVES HER TITLE AS FILM DIRECTOR, HONOURED ART WORKER OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION. CAMERAMAN IS EUGENE ACURATOV, WHO SAID HE HAS WORKED ON MANY OCCASIONS AS SPECIAL ASSISTANT DURING UN MEETINGS. THIRD MEMBER IS UNIDENTIFIED SOUND ENGINEER.

4. I AM AWARE THAT SOVIETS REFUSED, AFTER HAVING PREVIOUSLY AGREED, TO PERMIT AMBASSADOR TOON TO APPEAR ON SOVIET TV JULY 4, AND OF EXPULSION CASE OF U.S. CORRESPONDENT TOTH. SWISS NEUTRALITY AND SENSITIVITY TO RECENT DIFFICULTIES WITH SOVIETS (EG. JEANMAIRE CASE) SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN GUAGING TYPE OF RESPONSE I SHOULD MAKE IF INTERVIEW IS DECIDED UPON.

5. I AM ENTIRELY DISPOSED, OF COURSE, TO DO WHATEVER THE DEPARTMENT FINDS MOST CONVENIENT AND DESIRABLE. IF THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD WISH ME TO ACCEPT, FOR WHATEVER REASONS IT MIGHT HAVE, I WOULD THINK A RATHER BLAND AND GENERAL REPLY WOULD BE APPROPRIATE. I HAVE NOT MADE ANY SYSTEMATIC EFFORT TO DRAFT WHAT I MIGHT SAY AND WOULD, OF COURSE, WELCOME GUIDANCE IF THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD ACTUALLY WISH TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF MY SAYING SOMETHING. I MIGHT THINK, PERHAPS, OF RESPONDING ROUGHLY ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES.

I MIGHT NOTE THAT I HAVE SERVED AT THE U.S. EMBASSY IN MOSCOW, WORKED FOUR YEARS IN THE OFFICE OF USSR AFFAIRS IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND HAVE WORKED ON SOVIET-AMERICAN QUESTIONS ON THE NSC STAFF IN THE LATE-1960S.

I CAME AWAY FROM MY CONTACTS WITH SOVIETS AND MY TIME LIVING IN THE SOVIET UNION CONVINCED THAT THE
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SOVIET NATION PROFOUNDLY WANTS TO LIVE IN PEACE AND TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PURSUE ITS ASPIRATIONS AND REALIZE THE IMMENSE PROMISE OF THE SOVIET LAND AND PEOPLE. I ALSO KNOW THAT THESE ARE THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE AMERICAN NATION AND OUR PRESIDENT. I VIEW THE FUTURE WITH HOPE, AND CONFIDENCE THAT BOTH COUNTRIES WILL WORK TOWARD A RENEWED SALT AGREEMENT AND OTHER CONSTRUCTIVE UNDERSTANDINGS WHICH CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE SECURITY, PROSPERITY AND WELL-BEING OF BOTH NATIONS AND OF THE WHOLE WORLD.
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